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SOCIOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY INFORMATION ON BULGARIA

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1. Internal Situation

b. Organization of the Communist Party

In Sofia there are the following Communist organizations:

- (1) Fatherland Front
- (2) Dimitrov National Youth Association, led by Zhivko Zhivkov
- (3) Women's Unified Youth Association, led by Tsola Dragoicheva
- (4) Relief Organization
- (5) Bulgarian-Soviet League
- (6) Fighters Against Fascism Organization

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c. Propaganda

Propaganda is handled by the Committee for Science, Art, and Culture and is directed by Karlo Lukanov. It is divided into two branches, radio and press. The radio branch was directed until recently by Orain Vasilev. The press branch was directed by Vladimir Topencharov, who was replaced and imprisoned about 4 months ago, accused of being a follower of Trayeho Kostov.

The main propaganda slogans are "Peace" and "Work."

d. Ethics

The present Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone and director of the Women's Unified Youth Association, Tsola Dragoicheva, has an illegitimate son who was born while she was imprisoned as a Communist. After the Communist regime came into power this child was no longer considered illegitimate, because the law recognized illegitimate children and granted 80,000 leva in aid to the mothers.

The source also heard that Minkovski, the prosecutor of Sofia, was imprisoned during September or October for accepting a bribe not to sentence a defendant. Minkovski had also accepted bribes for other defendants.

e. Justice

The following types of courts exist in Bulgaria:

- (1) Okoliya courts
- (2) Okrug courts
- (3) Okrug appellate courts. The defendants of the okrug courts may appeal to the okrug appellate courts.
- (4) Supreme Court in Sofia.

There are also commune courts which handle petty cases, especially those pertaining to land and property. These courts are under the Ministry of Interior rather than the Ministry of Justice.

Law practice is not free. Permission to practice law is given only to Communist lawyers.

Anyone caught trying to flee the country is punished with 15 years' imprisonment. Anyone caught carrying arms illegally is punished with 5 years' imprisonment. Amnesty is granted to those who have already fled the country if they are willing to return to Bulgaria within 3 months.

f. Education

The rector of Sofia University is a professor of physics, Nedzhakov. Rector of the medical college at Plovdiv is Dr Marko Markov.

- (1) Scholarships Granted by the Soviet Union. About 15 students are sent to the Soviet Union annually.
- (2) Foreign Schools. The British, French, and Italian schools were abolished. A Russian and a Rumanian school are now functioning.
- (3) Influence of the Regime on Education. Education is based mostly on the teaching of Communist theory at the expense of general education.

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g. Youth

The general administration of the Dimitrov National Youth Association is located in Sofia on Stamboliyski Street. The general director, Zhivko Zhivkov is also a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria.

The Dimitrov National Youth Association is organized into okrug, okoliya, and commune councils, each of which has a president who is at the same time a member of the corresponding okrug, okoliya, or commune council of the state.

The Dimitrov National Youth Association is trained and used chiefly for propaganda. It has a branch, however, called GTO (Gotov za Trud i Otbrana, Ready for Work and Defense) whose members are trained militarily and in various sports (swimming, automobile, etc.).

h. Religion

The state has no concern for the church. Church leaders have no power whatsoever. Stefan, Eparch of Sofia, was relieved of his duties and exiled to Karluski Bane. His position remains vacant.

It seems that the practice of religious duties is freely permitted. However, as a result of propaganda and of direct action against the church, such as the abolition of big religious holidays, the people are continuously drawing away from the church.

i. Public Health

The health status of the population is not satisfactory. Besides tuberculosis, anemia is also widespread throughout the country.

There is a great shortage of necessary medicines, especially penicillin and streptomycin. One vial of 200,000 units of penicillin is valued at 600 leva. Because penicillin is scarce, however, it is sold on the black market for 10,000 leva for one vial of 200,000 units.

It is estimated that there are 2,500-3,000 doctors in Bulgaria.

The civil servants, workers, and farmers who were members of the farm workers' cooperatives received, until recently, free medical care. Doctors were paid from the Security Fund to which all members contributed. At the beginning of 1951, however, the Security Fund was abolished because it was unable to fulfill its purpose.

Each okrug administrative center has one complete hospital. In each okoliya there is a hospital with pathology, surgery, and obstetrics branches. In five or six villages there are health centers, each with one doctor, one midwife, and two or three aides.

Sofia has the following hospitals:

- (1) First Okrug Hospital; approximately 300 beds; director, Comrade Boyadzhiev.
- (2) Second Okrug Hospital; approximately 300 beds.
- (3) University Hospital; approximately 600 beds; director, Marko Markov.
- (4) Railroad Workers' Hospital; 80-100 beds; director, Penchev.

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- (5) Red Cross Hospital; 80-100 beds; used chiefly for first aid.
- (6) Labor Hospital; approximately 350 beds. Former director, Comrade Tosev, was recently replaced for lack of faithfulness.
- (7) Hospital of Famine Disease; approximately 100 beds; director, Comrade Tanchev.
- (8) Hospital-Sanatorium; 150 beds; director, Professor Comrade Modeyski.

In Plovdiv there four hospitals: (1) Okrug Hospital, (2) University Hospital, (3) Labor Hospital, and (4) Railroad Workers Hospital.

There are military hospitals in the following cities: Sofia, Plovdiv, Stalin, Pirogovo, Ruse, Blagoevgrad, Vratsa, Kolarovgrad, Vidin, Pleven, Stara Zagora, and Kazanluk.

j. People's Morale

The population participates in meetings as an obligation. The people do not believe the propaganda.

k. Opposition to the Regime

(1) Internal Opposition. The brother of Vasil Taraleskov is a former captain who lives at 14 Dobromir Khriz Street in Sofia. [In the Greek original the address for Ivan Rusev is given as 69 Rakovski (not Rokosovski) Street, Sofia.]

2. Security Forces and Prisons

b. Prisons and Concentration Camps

Nikola, Musisnov, 85, the former president of "Bulgarian Democracy," is detained at the Belene Concentration Camp near Svishtov.

3. Economic Situation

b. Currency

The entire currency will be replaced very shortly.

c. Food Prices and Taxation

All food items are rationed except sugar, which, however, is expensive -- 440 leva per kilogram.

Bread is distributed every day at 15 leva for 300 grams, but the distribution of other food items is very infrequent. There has been no distribution of certain food items, such as butter, cheese, etc., for over a year. Oil is distributed in the amount of one kilogram per month for each family, regardless of size.

Everyone, in general, pays a 10-percent tax, except single people, who pay 5 percent.

d. Laborers

The daily wages of laborers run from 250 to 300 leva. There is no unemployment. Free medical privileges for laborers will soon be abolished.

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e. Public Servants

The average wage, which runs from 7,000 to 8,000 leva per month, is insufficient for livelihood.

Whenever a public servant becomes ill, he receives half of his salary during his illness. Free medical privileges for public servants will also be abolished soon.

f. Agrarian Policy

Approximately 40 percent of the farmers have joined farm workers' cooperatives, but only as a result of pressure from the state.

g. Commercial Agreements

Commercial agreements are in force with all the satellite countries and also with Western and Eastern Germany.

The greatest part of the commercial exchange is with the USSR. Bulgaria exports chiefly cereals and imports from the USSR war materiel and machines.

4. Industry

e. Other Factories

Sofia also has a factory producing products such as radios, lamps, and various other electrical products. This factory employs 1,500 workers.

The smelter at Dimitrovo employs about 500 workers.

The chemical factory in the QE 5653 area employs about 500 workers.

There is a cement and building materials factory in Sofia called Grani-toit which employs approximately 1,000 workers.

There are sugar factories in Sofia and Ruse.

There is a flour mill with a large output in Cherven Breg.

There is a similar factory in Pirgovo.

The largest tobacco plants are in Sofia and Plovdiv.

The largest textile mills are in Gabrovo, Sliven, Sofia, and Stalin.

12. Navy

a. Length of Service

The length of service is 4 years, with no leave granted except in certain cases, such as serious family illness, death, etc.

b. Discipline, Morale, Welfare

The morale of the enlisted men in the navy is not good. No one wished to belong to the navy because of the long term of service without leave.

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c. Rations, Clothing, Shoes, Pay

Rations are better than those of the army. The navy receives one extra meal a day.

Clothing and shoes are the same quality as those of the army, the only difference being in color and design.

Sailors receive a daily wage of approximately 400 leva while at sea.

d. Types of Vessels

There are ten motor torpedo boats of an old German type and four to five minesweepers of about 300 tons each.

e. Naval Bases and Stations

There are naval bases at Stalin and Akhtopol.

f. Shipyards

Southwest of Stalin and in the Gebedzhe lagoon there are shipyards which construct 3,000-ton ships.

13. Air Force

a. Organization, Strength, and Locations

The air force is under the Ministry of National Defense and consists of several groups.

At the Bozhurishte airport, northwest of Sofia, there is a regiment of paratroopers.

There is an air group at Telish, at Plovdiv, and at Karlovo.

There is a seaplane unit at Stalin.

b. Classes Serving and Training

The classes serving in the air force are the same as those serving in the army. The length of service is 4 years. All the enlisted men are draftees.

Basic training is 3 months.

The officers training school for the air force is in Sofia at the army officer-training school. The attendance is 2 years. Not more than 30 students graduate from this school annually. After graduating from this school, air force as well as the army students proceed to another school which they attend for one year.

The school for officer fliers was located at Kazanluk up to September 1944. The source heard that this school is not functioning there today.

There are noncommissioned-officer training groups at the headquarters of each air group. The attendance is for one year. Upon termination of the course the students are made acting noncommissioned officers and remain as such until the end of their service.

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c. Rations, Clothing, Shoes and Pay

Air force personnel live under the same conditions as the other soldiers. Their uniforms are of the same quality with the following differences: The parachute regiment wears brown dress uniforms and training uniforms of various colors. The other fliers wear blue dress uniforms and blue training uniforms of poorer quality.

The pay is the same as in the army.

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